

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment and the following remarks are intended to fully respond to the Office Action mailed April 7, 2006. In that Office Action, claims 1-21 were examined, and all claims were rejected. More specifically, claims 1-21 were rejected on the grounds of obviousness type double patenting over claims 1-27 of U.S. Patent No. 6,996,778. Claims 1, 8, 13-16, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Golson et al. (USPN 5,761,505); and claims 2-7, 9-12, 17, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golson et al. in view of Burkett (USPN 6,678,889). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In this Response, claims 13 and 18 have been amended. Claim 21 has been canceled. Based on the remarks provided below, reconsideration of these rejections, as they might apply to the original and amended claims in view of these remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – Double Patenting

Claims 1-21 were rejected on the grounds of non-statutory double patenting over claims 1-27 of U.S. Patent No. 6,996,778. A terminal disclaimer is being filed herewith to obviate the double patenting rejection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the double patenting rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 8, 13-16, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Golson et al. (USPN 5,761,505) hereinafter “Golson.” Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, because Golson does not teach all the elements of the rejected claims.

Generally, embodiments discussed in the application are directed to methods of performing management tasks related to back-end resources. The methods provide for receiving task information from a number of resources for a single managed object. The task information may be received when the resources are being installed. Task information from each of the resources is associated and stored. When a request is received to perform a management task related to the managed object, a determination is made which resource(s) to call in response to the request. The task information previously associated and stored is used to make the determination. Once the determination is made, a task request is then sent to the appropriate

resource(s) to perform the management task. Thus, the appropriate resources necessary for performing the management task are automatically accessed from a single request, without the need to send multiple requests to the various resources.

Golson discloses managing resources (e.g., a printer, a file system etc.) in a network by using global resource management software installed on each individual computer system in the network. *See Golson*, col. 2, lines 36-40 and col. 4, lines 16-22. The global resource management software includes a reconciliator and a task manager. *See Id.* at col. 2, lines 40-42. The task manager receives and executes configuration tasks for a resource entered by a user, and forwards the configuration information to other computer systems in the network. *See Id.* at col. 2, lines 45-50. The configuration tasks relate to changes made to the configuration of resources in the network, e.g., add, delete, or modify a network printer. For those computer systems in the network that are not responsive, and consequently do not receive the updated information regarding the resource, the task manager stores the identity of the nonresponsive computer systems and the configuration information in a global resource database for later updating the nonresponsive computer systems. *See Id.* at col. 2, lines 50-54.

The global resource database stores objects associated with each network resource. *See Id.* at col. 5, lines 58-60. The object includes a list of the nonresponsive computers that did not receive updated configuration information related to the resource. *See Id.* at col. 6, lines 16-22. Accordingly, the reconciliator in each of the computer systems can access the global resource database to download configuration information it may have missed when it was nonresponsive. *See Id.* at col. 7, line 61-col. 8, line 14. Golson does not however disclose receiving, associating, and storing task information (related to a single managed object) from a number of resources.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *See MPEP 2131 (citing Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 Fed. Cir. 1987)). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *See Id. (citing Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989)). Applicants kindly submit that the Examiner has not met the legal burden of establishing the anticipation of the pending claims.

Inter alia, claim 1 recites receiving information from a first resource related to a first task, the first task information for a “first managed object” and receiving information from a

second resource related to a second task, the second task associated with the “first managed object.” Applicants respectfully submit that by any interpretation, Golson cannot disclose the noted elements of claim 1.

The Examiner states with respect to Golson that “computers in the network share resources in the network, each resource has [sic] associated task.” Applicants kindly submit that even if each of the resources disclosed by Golson has an associated task, they do not each have task information that relates to a single managed object. As described above, the only objects disclosed by Golson store information regarding a single network resource. *See Id.* at col. 5, lines 58-60. The objects store information such as the resource name, resource type, an object type, configuration parameters, a list of the nonresponsive computers that did not receive updated configuration information related to the resource, a computer system name, etc. *See Id.* at col. 5, line 65-col. 6, line 25. These objects taught by Golson cannot have task information from two resources, as Golson teaches that each object necessarily relates to only a single resource. In contrast to the teachings of Golson, claim 1 requires receiving task information (for a first task and a second task) from two resources for *a single managed object*.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 is clearly distinct from and patentable over the disclosures of Golson. Claims 2-12 depend from claim 1 and are also allowable for the same reasons.

Claim 13 has been amended to recite “wherein the task information relates to an object type managed by the new resource.” This clarifies that the task information retrieved in claim 13 relates to an object type managed by the newly installed resource. Golson does not teach or suggest that when a resource is newly installed, task information related to an object type managed by the resource is retrieved. As previously described, the only objects disclosed by Golson store information regarding a single resource in the network. The objects are managed by a server. Golson never mentions any method that includes retrieving, storing and sharing task information related to an object managed by a newly installed resource.

For at least these reasons, claim 13 is distinguished over the disclosures of Golson. Claims 14-17 depend from claim 13 and are also allowable for the same reasons.

Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate previous claim 21, which is now canceled. Newly amended claim 18 now recites a script manager for combining multiple tasks into a single script function. The Examiner concedes that Golson does not teach this element, and relies on

U.S. Patent No. 6,678,889 to Burkett, hereinafter Burkett, to compensate for the deficiency in Golson. The applicants submit that Burkett also fails to disclose this element of newly amended claim 18.

Burkett is directed to defining and sharing resources within an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document that defines a console (i.e., a graphical user interface) for managing a number of application programs and tasks associated therewith. *See Burkett*, col. 1, lines 57-63. With the invention of Burkett, upon receiving a request from a user to perform a task associated with an application program managed by the console, a search is conducted within resource containers for one or more resources required to perform the task. *See Id.* at col. 7, lines 52-53. When found, a clone of each located resource is generated. *See Id.* at col. 7, lines 66-67. The task is then performed using the clone of the resource. *See Id.* at col. 8, lines 3-8. The clone of the resource may be discarded after the task has been performed. *See Id.* at col. 8, line 9. The "original" of the resource is not modified. *See Id.* at col. 8, line 3-8. Burkett however does not disclose that tasks may be combined into a single script function by a script manager.

As described above, newly amended claim 18 recites a script manager that combines tasks into a script function. Burkett does not teach or suggest anything akin to a script manager for combining tasks. Indeed, Burkett discloses performing only a single task at a time, which as described above prompts a search within a resource container for the resource(s) necessary to perform the task. Moreover, performing only a single task at a time necessarily teaches away from combining tasks into a single script function. A prior art reference that "teaches away" from the claimed invention is a significant factor to be considered in determining obviousness. *See MPEP* § 2145.

Claim 18 has also been amended to add additional language that further defines the terms "resource," "task," and "task information." Support for these amendments can be found in the specification at least at page 16, lines 20-23 and page 22 lines 1-10. These additional amendments further distinguish claim 18 from Burkett and Golson.

For at least these reasons, newly amended claim 18 is allowable over the disclosures of Golson and Burkett. Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 18 and are also allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 2-7, 9-12, 17, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golson et al. in view of Burkett. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *MPEP* § 2143.03 (citing *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)). Claims 2-7, 9-12, 17, and 20 depend from one of independent claims 1, 13, or 18 and incorporate all the limitations of their associated independent claim. As described above, Golson fails to disclose all the elements of claims 1, 13, and 18; and Burkett fails to compensate for the deficiencies of Golson. Therefore, the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claims 2-7, 9-12, 17, 20, and 21, because all of the limitations of these claims are not found in the cited references.

Conclusion

This Amendment fully responds to the Office Action mailed on April 7, 2006. Still, that Office Action may contain arguments and rejections and that are not directly addressed by this Amendment because they are rendered moot in light of the preceding arguments in favor of patentability. Hence, failure of this Amendment to directly address an argument raised in the Office Action should not be taken as an indication that the Applicants believe the argument to have merit. Furthermore, the claims of the present application may include other elements, not discussed in this Amendment, which are not shown, taught, or otherwise suggested by the art of record. Accordingly, the preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

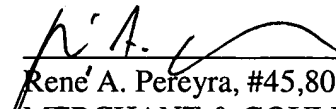
It is believed that no fees are due with this Response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725.

In light of the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attempt to resolve those issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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